

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 16-32 are now pending in the application. Claims 24-32 are added by the foregoing amendments. It is respectfully requested that these amendments be entered prior examination of the application on the merits.

Conclusion

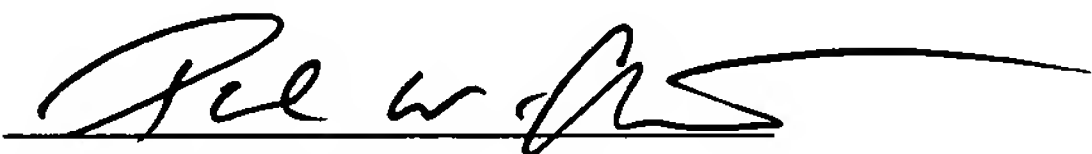
Applicants submit that all of the claims pending in this patent application are in condition for allowance and request an early indication of such allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, he/she is invited to contact the undersigned at (360) 379-6514.

Respectfully Submitted,

McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff

Date: Jan. 29, 2003

By:


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT is being deposited as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 29th day of January 2004.


Paul W. Churilla